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General and complete disarmament

Small arms

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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II. Replies received from Member States

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[7 September 2000]

Views of the relevant authorities of the State of Qatar concerning General Assembly resolutions 54/54 R and 54/54 V

1. It would be a positive step to address the problem of the illicit traffic in arms in all its aspects by convening an international conference to remedy its adverse consequences. Sufficient attention must be paid to the question if the desired outcome is to be achieved.

2. Although it is not one of those countries directly affected, as a member of the international community, the State of Qatar nevertheless participates actively in addressing this problem in cooperation with the States of the region and all the relevant organizations. It has been mindful to enact legislation to prevent the illicit circulation of arms and to formulate regulations for the issuance of weapons possession permits to civilians for specific purposes.

Objectives

3. We suggest that the conference should focus primarily on the need for an effective mechanism, binding on States, to combat the illicit circulation of weapons and on the elaboration of precautionary measures to prevent the problem from becoming worse and with a view to establishing penalties for offenders.

Scope

4. The scope of the conference should include all relevant aspects of the subject, while focusing on addressing the adverse consequences of the illicit traffic in arms and, in particular, on the economic aspects, the destruction of infrastructure, social disintegration and even emigration from affected areas.

Agenda

5. We should like the following items to be included in the agenda of the conference:

(a) Review of restrictions and procedures, the enactment of legislation to restrict the circulation of arms outside official (institutional and military) channels, and the strengthening of controls on the possession of arms by civilians;

(b) Bilateral and multilateral agreements and their usefulness for coordinating action to prevent the traffic in arms and their transfer among the States parties as well as for the apprehension, prosecution and extradition of offenders.

Date

6. We would welcome the convening of the conference at the scheduled time in 2001.

Venue

7. We welcome Switzerland's offer to host the conference.